

## BLACKBERRY CONTROL

This last summer, a lot of work has been done to create a blackberry-free corridor between Australind and Darkan. The aim is to separate the American species (*Rubus laudatus*) which occurs in the Perth region, from the European species (*R. anglocandicans*) that occurs in the south-west. A rust has been imported as a biological control agent and is being used successfully against the European species which is susceptible to it, but the American species is not; so it is important to separate the two populations lest they interbreed and the resistant gene gets passed on. Further control and monitoring of regrowth will continue for the rest of this year. If you live in that general area and would like to know more about the project, contact Andrew Reeves, Weed Officer, DAFWA, on areeves@agric.wa.gov.au .

In the Perth area, the Helena River Catchment Group obtained funds from the SwanALCOALandcare Program to control weeds, including blackberry, along part of the lower Helena River. The operation was planned for three years of action, in the following sequence: Year 1, Oct/Nov, spray (metasulphuron); year 2, burn, May – date determined by rains, respray Sept/Oct (glyphosate); year 3, spot spray, opportunistic (glyphosate). The weed control has been extremely successful. If you would like more details, or to view the site, contact the Editor.